AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims supersedes all prior versions and listings of claims in this application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Original) A rubber composition comprising 100 parts by mass of a diene polymer and 20-250 parts by mass of a carbon black as a filler, characterized in that the carbon black has a dibutylphthalate (DBP) absorption number of $40\text{-}180 \text{ cm}^3/100 \text{ g}$, a nitrogen adsorption specific surface area (N₂SA) of $40\text{-}300 \text{ m}^2/\text{g}$, a tint strength (TINT) of 50-150% and a light transmittance of toluene extract of not less than 90% and a relation between the nitrogen adsorption specific surface area and the light transmittance of toluene extract satisfies the following equation (I):

$$0.0283 \times A \times (100-B) \le 40 \cdots (I)$$

(wherein A is a nitrogen adsorption specific surface area and B is a light transmittance of toluene extract).

2. (Original) A rubber composition according to claim 1, wherein the relation between the nitrogen adsorption specific surface area and the light transmittance of toluene extract satisfies the following equation (II):

$$0.0283 \times A \times (100-B) \le 20 \cdots$$
 (II)

(wherein A and B are the same as mentioned above).

3. (Original) A rubber composition according to claim 2, wherein the relation between the nitrogen adsorption specific surface area and the light transmittance of toluene extract satisfies the following equation (III):

$$0.0283 \times A \times (100-B) \le 8 \cdots (III)$$

(wherein A and B are the same as mentioned above).

- 4. (Original) A rubber composition according to claim 1, wherein the carbon black has a maximum ultraviolet (UV) absorbance at 330-340 nm of not more than 0.020 and a maximum ultraviolet (UV) absorbance at 260-280 nm of not more than 0.020.
- 5. (Original) A rubber composition according to claim 1, wherein the carbon black has a weight reduction ratio at 400-530°C of not more than 0.20%.
- 6. (Original) A rubber composition according to claim 1, wherein the carbon black has an extraction ratio with dichloromethane of not more than 0.12%.
- 7. (Original) A rubber composition according to claim 1, wherein the carbon black has a hydrogen emitting ratio at 2000°C of not less than 0.15%.
- 8. (Original) A rubber composition according to claim 1, wherein the carbon black has a hydrogen emitting ratio at 2000°C of not less than 0.18%.

- 9. (Original) A rubber composition according to claim 1, wherein the carbon black has a hydrogen emitting ratio of not less than 0.23%.
- 10. (Currently Amended) A tire characterized by using a rubber composition as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 9 claim 1 in a tread.

Please add the following newly presented claims:

- 11. (New) A tire characterized by using a rubber composition as claimed in claim 2 in a tread.
- 12. (New) A tire characterized by using a rubber composition as claimed in claim 3 in a tread.
- 13. (New) A tire characterized by using a rubber composition as claimed in claim 4 in a tread.
- 14. (New) A tire characterized by using a rubber composition as claimed in claim 5 in a tread.
- 15. (New) A tire characterized by using a rubber composition as claimed in claim 6 in a tread.

- 16. (New) A tire characterized by using a rubber composition as claimed in claim 7 in a tread.
- 17. (New) A tire characterized by using a rubber composition as claimed in claim 8 in a tread.
- 18. (New) A tire characterized by using a rubber composition as claimed in claim 9 in a tread.